Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2913

CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 01967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VE

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICAN REPRESENTATION AT INAUGURATION

REF: STATE 041343

- 1. EMBASSY HAS NOT WISHED TO INCLUDE PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION IN US DELEGATION TO PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. WE HAVE IN FACT PERSISTENTLY ATTEMPTED TO HAVE GOV REGARD PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION AS SEPARATE FROM THE US DELEGATION. GOV ORIGINALLY APPEARED INCLINED TREAT PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION AS PART OF, AND SUBORDINATE TO, US DELEGATION.
- 2. AFTER REPEATED EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOLARY STATUS OF THE PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION, BEGINNING LAST WEEK, WE HAVE FINALLY BEEN ADVISED BY VENEZUELAN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL THAT GOV CONSIDERS PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION IS JURIDICALLY SUBORDINATE TO THE US DELEGATION. THUS PUERTO RICANS WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO PRESENT CREDENTIAL. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE GOV WILL AGREE TO PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION BEING LISTED SEPARATELY FROM US DELEGATION AND PARTICIPATING IN EVENTS IN OWN NAME. WE ARE STILL PRESSING FOR FINAL CLARIFICATION OF THE STATUS OF THE PUERTO RICANS.
- 3. WE HAVE ALSO PRESSED PROTOCOL ON QUESTION OF LODGING FOR THE PUERTO RICANS. PROTOCOL SAYS THAT THE GOV WILL MAKE SOME SORT OF ARRANGEMENT FOR THEIR LODGING, BUT HAS NOT YET PROVIDED DETAILS. WE WILL REPORT THEM WHEN WE KNOW. MEANTIME, EMBASSY HAS MADE CONTINGENCY RESERVATIONS FOR 3 SMALL SUITES AT A NEARBY HOTEL (ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE FOR PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION.

4. WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 2 AND 3 TO PUERTO RICAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE, TOGETHER WITH REITERATION OF EMBASSY'S WISH TO ASSIST THE PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION IN ANY WAY IT CAN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING NAMES AND TITLES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION AND THEIR FLIGHT INFORMATION SO THAT WE MAY MEET AND ASSIST.

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